Fosthill Essex County Virginia HABS No. VA 330

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PHOTOGRAPHS WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey
Prepared at Washington Office

HARS VA: VA: VA: V

FONTHILL Near Lloyds, Essex Co., Va.

Owner: Mrs. J. Clayton Mitchell

Date: c. 1830

Builder: R. M. T. Hunter

Condition: Fair

Description: In elevation the house is a three part architectural composition having a two story central block with wings that are lower, all with gabled roofs. A chimney at either end of the main block serves both main house and wing rooms and gives accent to the design. The main house is five bays long with a center door and each wing is three bays. Across the front is an unusual and interesting porch framed by coupled posts with lattice grilles filling the space between. As characteristic of the period the house is set on a high basement.

In plan there is a central hall containing a sheathed in stair. There is a single room on either side with wing rooms beyond. The interior trim is simple but of the period.

The great distinction of the place lies in its planting. The main axis is framed by a fine allee of tulip poplars, though unimportant minor planting has been allowed to confuse the design. Across the front of the house-grounds there is a high hedge of holly, partly clipped. At the south bounds of the rear parterre is an extraordinary double row of venerable hollies, the space between the trunks being barely a foot.

May 29. 1941